a plurality of buyers conforming to a seller defined class of buyers for communicating RFQs to said filter means;

a plurality of sellers conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers for communicating quotes to said filter means in response to a specific RFQ of said RFQs, said filter means including means for determining, based upon said filter conditions, which sellers should receive RFQs from a buyer and to which [quotes] RFQs should the sellers respond.

2. (Amended) A method of utilizing a data network for advertising and selling items [for sale by a seller] including the steps of:

    communicating, to centralized filter means, from a plurality of sellers, information indicating items offered for sale to at least one seller defined class of buyers to receive the information;

    communicating, to the centralized filter means, from a potential buyer, a category of item in which said buyer is interested and a buyer defined class of sellers to receive the information ;

    using said centralized filter means to match buyer and seller classes;

    communicating the information from said class of buyers to said buyer defined class of sellers; and

    communicating an offer for sale from at least one of said sellers for at least one item in said category of items indicated, to a buyer if said buyer is within said class and said items are within said category.

3. (Amended) A method for effectuating a purchase between a buyer conforming to a seller defined class of buyers and a seller selected from a plurality of sellers conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers over a computer communications network, comprising the steps of:

    providing over said network a page including information of each of a plurality of seller's offers and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;

    displaying said hypertext link containing page to said buyer; and

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cont'd*

sending a purchase request by said buyer to said selected seller clicking on said hypertext link.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein said step of sending a purchase request is completed by simply clicking on said hypertext link without inputting further information.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said purchase request includes a consent that said seller is authorized to use buyer's credit information to fulfill said purchase.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of sending a purchase request is completed by clicking on said hypertext link.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said action of clicking is taken only once.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said credit information includes buyer's billing and shipping information sufficient to effectuate the purchase.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said buyer's credit information is pre-stored in a server.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said server is remotely located and accessible by said seller through said network.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein said hypertext link containing page is an email message.

12. The method of claim 3 wherein said hypertext link containing page is a web page.

13. The method of claim 3 wherein said purchase request is sent as an email request by clicking on said hypertext link.

14. The method of claim 3 wherein said purchase request is sent directly to said seller by clicking on said hypertext link.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said page includes at least one hypertext link for further showing said information of said offer.

16. (Amended)The method of claim 3 wherein said page is provided by said seller directly to said buyer.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said page is provided by a central processing unit remotely accessible by said buyer and said seller through said communications network.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said purchase request is sent to said central processing unit.

19. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of displaying is implemented by a browser.

20. (Amended) A method of effectuating a purchase between a buyer and a seller over a computer communications network, comprising the steps of:

defining a class of buyers;

defining a class of sellers;

providing credit information of said buyer to a seller;

providing over said computer communications network, from one or more sellers to said buyer, a page including information of each seller's offer and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;

displaying each said hypertext link containing page to said buyer;

selecting one of said one or more sellers;

sending a purchase request by said buyer to the selected seller by clicking on said hypertext link; and

fulfilling said purchase [upon receipt of said purchase] request from said buyer.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said server is maintained by a central processing unit remotely located and accessible by said buyer and said seller through said network.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said step of displaying is carried out by said central processing unit.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of displaying is carried out by said seller.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said page is an email message.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said page is a web page.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein at said step of sending said purchase request is directly sent to said seller.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein at said step of sending said purchase request is sent to said central processing unit.

28. The method of claim 20 further including a step of:

retrieving by said seller, upon receipt of said purchase request from said buyer, of said buyer's credit information kept on said server so as to fulfill said purchase.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of fulfilling comprises a step of clearing credit of said buyer directly by said seller.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said step of fulfilling comprises a step of clearing credit of said buyer by said central processing unit.

31. (Amended) A computerized system for effectuating a purchase between a buyer conforming to a seller defined class of buyers and a seller selected from a plurality of potential sellers conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers over a communications network, comprising:

means for each of said plurality of potential sellers to provide a page including information of at least one offer and at least one hypertext link for said buyer to make a response;

means for said seller to transmit at least one said hypertext link containing page to said buyer;

means for said buyer to receive and display said at least one hypertext link containing page; and

means for said buyer to click on a selected one of said at least one hypertext link to send a purchase request in response to said offer.

32. The system of claim 31 further comprising means for keeping credit information of said buyer that is accessible to said seller.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein said means for keeping buyer's credit information is accessible to said seller only upon receipt of said purchase request from said buyer.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein said purchase request includes an identifier for said buyer with which said seller may access said buyer's credit information.

35. The system of claim 32 wherein said means for keeping buyer's credit information is a server.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein said server is remotely located from both said buyer and said seller, and is connected to said buyer and said seller through said network.

37. (Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein said page is an email message.

38. (Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein said page further comprises at least one hypertext link for further showing said information of said quotation offer.

39. The system of claim 32 further including means for inputting said buyer's credit information into said means for keeping said buyer's credit information.

40. The system of claim 31 further including a website of said seller, accessible by said buyer through said network, for providing said hypertext link containing page to said buyer.

41. The system of claim 40 wherein said network is an Internet network.

42. (Amended) A method of enabling a buyer conforming to a seller defined class of buyers to purchase an item over a communications network from a remote system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a hypertext link indicative of a desire to place an electronic purchase order;

in response to said step of selecting, transmitting at least one electronic purchase order to a seller conforming to a buyer defined class of sellers; and

in response to said step of transmitting, providing credit information of the buyer maintained at said remote system to complete the purchase of said item.